IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application ~~Attorney Docket No. Kumar 5-5~~ Serial No. 10/723,150, filed concurrently herewith and entitled "Access Control List Constructed as a Tree of Matching Tables," which is incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

In an illustrative embodiment, the fields of the ACL rules comprise at least first and second fields, with the first field comprising a source address field and the second field comprising a destination address field. The first field in this embodiment corresponds to the root level of the tree representation, and the root level includes a plurality of nodes, with two or more of the nodes of that level having a common subtree, and each pointing to the [[a]] single copy of the common subtree. A second level of the tree representation may also include a plurality of nodes, each being associated with a subtree of a given one of the plurality of nodes of the root level of the tree representation.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The above-cited U.S. Patent Application ~~Attorney Docket No. Kumar 5-5~~ Serial No. 10/723,150 discloses a number of techniques for generating a tree representation of an ACL. One such technique determines a set of rules of the ACL, and processes the rules to generate a multi-level tree representation of the ACL. The rule determination and processing may be implemented in the host processor 112, in the network processor 102, in a combination of these elements, or in one or more other system elements. Generally, each of one or more of the levels of the tree is associated with a corresponding one of the fields of the ACL rules. In addition, at least one level of the tree other than a root level of the tree comprises a plurality of nodes, with at least two of the nodes at that level each having a separate matching table associated therewith. The matching tables may comprise, by way of example, longest prefix matching (LPM) tables. This tree representation of multiple LPM tables is also referred to as "in-line chaining" of LPM tables, since an LPM table at a

given level of the tree is associated not with the entire field of that level but instead only with a particular field value from the previous level.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

The tree representations described herein provide significant improvements over other arrangements which involve use of LPM tables. Such other arrangements include, for example, the use of a separate LPM table for each field, an approach referred to as the per-field LPM approach, and described in detail in the above-cited U.S. Patent Application ~~Attorney Docket No. Kumar 5-5~~ <u>Serial No. 10/723,150</u>. The per-field LPM approach generally involves mapping each field of the ACL rule set to a corresponding LPM table, with matching results from each of the LPM tables being combined and utilized to access an ACL table.